SAILOR'S DREAM

Virginia Hansen Miller

as told to Maxine Kortum Durney, 1989

My parents both came from Norway, my father {Amdrew} from Oslo, my mother {Anna Marie Jemtegaard} from Vikebukt Romsdalen. My Dad went to sea when he was 17, on a sailing ship. His brother-in-law was captain. He later sailed on English ships, and was all over the world...Australia..Alaska.

He came to Portland, took a test for fireman, and was in the Portland Fire Department - they had horses then -when he met my mother. She had brothers in Portland, and she worked for wealthy people, the Myer family, of the Myer-Franklin Department store in Portland. My parents were in their early thirties when they married.

My Dad heard about chicken ranches in Petaluma, wanted to go down there and make a lot of money...which he never did. That's about seventy three years ago, 1915. My brother Howard was born in Portland, but we girls, Marilyn and I, were born here.

He bought the place over time, five acres, and a little house that had been a granary, attached to the tank house. Later the house was enlarged and moved closer to the road, where it is now, on Skillman lane.

He told us stories from his sailing days, and of his time building bridges in Alaska. He told us of hardtack, with weevils in it, but in Petaluma he found a place to buy hardtack. We put a lot of butter on it and we liked it.

I cleaned eggs after school, too. Changed into an old dress...no overalls for girls in those days.. First we washed the eggs, then sandpapered every speck, and always packed with the little end down.

Thanksgiving dinner would be at some relative's. The men would leave the dinner to go home to feed, then come back to eat another dinner. They ate a lot in those days, but they worked hard and needed it.

The only trip we took was to Portland, when I was four. My uncle was a sailor, he was in port, and took care of the chickens while we went on the trip.

PETALUMA HISTORICAL MUSEUM
Oral History Program

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For and in consideration of the participation by the Petaluma Historical Museum in any programs involving the dissemination of ~~tape-recorded memoirs and~~ oral history material for publication, copyright, and other uses, I hereby release all right, title, or interest in any and to all of my ~~tape-recorded~~ memoirs to the Petaluma Historical Museum and declare that they may be used without any restriction whatsover and may be copyrighted and published by the said Museum, which may also assign said copyright and publication rights to serious research scholars.

In addition to the rights and authority given to you under the preceeding paragraph, I hereby authorize you to edit, publish, sell and/or license the use of my oral history memoir in any other manner which the Museum considers to be desirable and I waive any claim to any payments which may be received as a consequence thereof by the Museum.

PLACE _____

DATE June 15, 1994

Virginia Miller
(Interviewee)

_____
(for the Petaluma Historical Museum)

339

PETALUMA HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM
Oral History Program
Family History Questionnaire

Virginia Hansen Fuller

Name Oct. 17, 1882 Birthdate Birthplace Deceased? Date

Parents* Anna Marie Jemptegaard Hansen - Norway - Died Nov. 27, 1935
Andreas Hansen 1/11/85 - Norway Died Dec 30, 1949

Brothers & Sisters Marylyn Alta Hansen born Jan 15 1919 - Living
Harold Clerie Hansen - born 8/7/1915 - died 6/10/77

Grand-parents* Jemptegaard & Hansen

Spouse

Children Emerson John Miller
Julie Marie Miller ~~Miller~~ Mills

Grandchildren Vincent Widemann (Stepson of John Miller)

*Please include maiden name of mother and grandmothers.

THANK YOU!

PETALUMA HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM
Oral History Program
Narrator Personal Information Questionnaire

Name Miller Virginia Mae Hansen
Last First Middle (Maiden)

Address 201 Hawaii St. Apt. 4
Petaluma Calif. 94952

Marital status: Married ___ Single ___ Divorced ✓ Widowed ___

Birthdate Nov. 18, 1920 Birthplace Petaluma Calif

Length of residence in Petaluma (or Sonoma County) 73 yrs.

Education: Elementary school Cinnabar

Secondary school Petaluma Junior High School Grad 1938

College St. Mary's College of Nursing Grad 1942

Other ___

Occupation(s) or former occupations(s) Registered Nurse

Travels Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, Alaska, Mexico

Organizations, clubs ___

Other special interests Hiking, Swimming, Reading, Gardening

Additional comments ___

THANK YOU!